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(*b*) whether such suffering has not become usual in Malabar for some years past; and

(*c*) whether the Government have done anything in the past or propose to do anything in future for irrigation in Malabar; if so, what?

A.—(*a*) The Government are not aware that many parts of the district have been seriously affected by deficiency of rain. They are aware that the rainfall from 1st April up to date is less than the average.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Several projects were investigated in the past in the Malabar district and the preliminary reports on them were considered by the Government. The following schemes were abandoned either on financial or engineering considerations:—

(1) Kunduchira project.
(2) Anakkara irrigation scheme.
(3) Vandithodu irrigation scheme.
(4) Kilakancheri project.
(5) Malampuzha project.

Alleged failure of crops in Kollegal taluk.

*910 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government or the Board of Revenue have received reports from any of the local authorities about the complete failure of rainfall in Kollegal taluk of Coimbatore district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the people of that taluk are suffering very much for want of food grains and labour;

(*c*) whether memorials have been sent praying for the immediate construction of some irrigation works or the Sivasamudram bridge which may give some work to the people of the taluk;

(*d*) whether memorials have been received that the people of the taluk may be permitted to take bamboo, rice, aloe roots and edible greens from the reserved forests adjoining the villages;

(*e*) whether the Government have passed any orders in the matter and, if so, to what effect; and

(*f*) whether, if no reports or memorials have been received by the Government, they have any objection to call for an immediate report and authorize the local authorities to take all necessary steps to alleviate the sufferings of the people in the taluk?

A.—(*a*) The Collector reported on 16th October 1928 that the tanks in the Kollegal taluk had not received sufficient supplies this year during the south-west monsoon period but that they were receiving supplies after the rains in the first fortnight of October.

(*b*) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested.

(*c*) *to* (*e*) No such memorials have been received. A contract has been executed for the construction of the Sivasamudram bridge.

(*f*) The Government know of no reason why the course suggested should be adopted.

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) of this question, may I know whether the Government have received any further communication from the Collector regarding the sufficiency or insufficiency of the rainfall ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"No, Sir. A reference has been made to the Collector."

Levy of fines by the Tahsildar on the villagers of Santhavasal for cutting stones to repair the local Hindu temple.

911 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is an 'ancient' Hindu temple on a hillock in Santhavasal village, Polur taluk, North Arcot district, and whether the people of Santhavasal had always worshipped in and maintained the said temple ;

(*b*) whether recently when the villagers cut stones for repairing this temple the tahsildar levied fines on those who cut stones and further threatened to prosecute them ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that worshippers and trustees of Hindu temples are dealing with the properties in their charge as they want for the use and preservation of the temples ; and

(*d*) whether Government will be pleased to enquire into this interference by the tahsildar ?

A.—(*a*) to (*d*) The Government have called for a report. If the stones were quarried from Government land without permit and without payment of seigniorage, the action of the tahsildar would be correct.

Assessment of coconut topes standing in wet lands.

912 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether coconut topes standing in wet lands are charged 'wet' assessment ;

(*b*) whether the owners of such coconut topes have to pay full assessment during seasons of water scarcity whereas 'wet' lands get remission in times of water scarcity ;

(*c*) whether there was a wholesale drying up and loss of coconut plantations in Tiruppattur and neighbouring parts of North Arcot district during the last summer ; and

(*d*) whether Government will direct the revision of Standing Orders so as to allow remission in such cases ?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The assessment is on the land not on the crop.

(*b*) The rules governing remission are the same whatever the crop on the land may be.

(*c*) The Government are not aware whether the fact is as suggested.

(*d*) If the plantation was completely lost because of deficiency of water the land should be eligible for remission under the rules as they stand.